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## REVIEWS.

THE LAWS AND JURISPRUDENCE OF ENGLAND AND AMERICA. Being a Series of Lectures delivered before Yale University. By John F. Dillon, LL.D. Boston: Little, Brown, & Co. 1894. Octavo, pp. xvi. 431.

The main purpose of these lectures, as Judge Dillon says, is "to inspire a patriotic . . . regard for the laws and institutions of our country, . . . and to exhibit the excellences of our legal system." A book with such an object seems most welcome in days when the reaction from the old fetich worship of the common law is so strong.

In giving an historical sketch of the most salient features in the growth of the English law, the author has written a most interesting chapter on the Inns of Court. Certainly, to readers whose knowledge of these institutions, so important in English history, is confined, as is the case with most, to dim ideas gathered from "Pendennis," these pages will prove valuable. The strongest impression one gets from them is the great stimulus an English student must derive from life in the Inns of Court in the midst of the greatest lawyers of the kingdom. However thorough a legal education we in America may have, it is marred by the lack of intercourse with older men of our profession, and narrowed by a life passed simply with young men of our own age and occupations.

Judge Dillon makes the usual complaint about the rapid accumulation of law reports. He does not give Chief Justice Popham's reason for the trouble:—

*"Quaeritur, ut crescant, tot magna volumina legis?  
In promptu causa est, crescit in orbe dolus."*

But he says this tremendous multiplication of reports is inevitable under a system of pure judge-made law, and he advocates codification as a solution of the difficulty. And by codification is not meant an attempt to cover all imaginable transactions by statutory rules. He would favor: (1) Codification of portions of the law involving the more important and customary business relations,—such codification as is seen in the English "Bills of Exchange Act;" (2) statutory interference where the law is in great confusion, as in the law of partnership; (3) remedial statutes for the many useless distinctions, survivals from the feudal system, between the law of real and personal property. Whether or not Judge Dillon is sound in his views, he gives plausible reasons for what is undoubtedly the present tendency of the law, and deprives the word "codification" of some of the horror it has for many minds.

The book does not contain much original matter. Some of the general philosophizing in it is very conventional, and the style is at times unfortunately florid. It is, however, an interesting and suggestive book to any one who wishes to know the characteristics and needs of our law. Moreover, when Judge Dillon speaks about matters within his personal knowledge, like the jury system, codification, or methods of legal instruction, one feels that respect for his words due to a strong man of long professional experience.

A. N. H.